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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer  
of Health . .

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For the Year, 1942

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Romsey & Stockbridge  
Rural District Council



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

### Romsey & Stockbridge Rural District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the Romsey and Stockbridge  
Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1942.

#### SECTION A,—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (Acres)	.....	.....	.....	83,672
Population (as estimated by Registrar General)				23,280
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	£123,747
Sum represented by a 1d. rate				£520
Number of Council Houses				420

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	213	168	281	} Birth rate per 1000 estimated population 17.1.
Illegitimate	8	10	18	
Still Births	3	3	6	} Rate per 1000 (live and still births)—15
Deaths	131	117	248	
				} Death rate per 1000 estimated population 10.6.
Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth				
				From Sepsis 0.
				From other causes 1.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	.....	.....	.....	27.5
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	.....			28
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	.....			0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	44
„ „ Measles „	.....	.....	.....	1
„ „ Whooping Cough „	.....	.....	.....	0
„ „ Diarrhoea, under 2	.....	.....	.....	2

The death rate and the infant mortality rate is low. The birth rate is a little above the average.

Of all causes of death, Heart disease accounted for 70, Cancer 44, Pneumonia 7, Tuberculosis 6, Cerebral haemorrhage 21, Bronchitis and Influenza 2.

Deaths from Cancer, Cerebral haemorrhage and Heart disease are above the average. Deaths from Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Pulmonary Tuberculosis are below the average. Deaths from the other diseases are about the average.

The Health of the School and Welfare child has improved. One of the deficiencies in the child's diet in pre war years was an insufficiency of proteid but the provision of cheap milk, school milk and school meals has corrected this. The school meals are very good and are appreciated by the children. These meals have an educational value and are useful in the case of only children or other children who have parents over anxious about their food.

The parents in many cases get their meals at Canteens or British Restaurants, so that some of their rations are only used at week ends. Men who have had to stay away from work owing to illness, miss their canteen meals—one man stated that it was like having double rations. There are however several types of people in the Country who have to depend on their rations only as they are unable to feed at Canteens or British Restaurants. These people do not get an equal share of the food available. They seem to have a deficiency of proteid and fat especially the latter, this apparently makes them slower in their actions. One often hears conductresses appealing to these middle aged people to hurry up.

The country adults are worse off than those in towns except for fresh vegetables and in some cases eggs.



## **SECTION B.—General Provision of Health Services.**

### **(1) *Nursing in the Home.***

There is no nursing arrangement or contribution by the Local Authority.

### **(2) *Laboratory Facilities.***

The County Laboratory provides facilities for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

An Emergency Public Health Laboratory has been established at Winchester for an area which includes the Romsey and Stockbridge districts.

### **(3) *Hospitals.***

- (a) Romsey and District Hospital.  
Romsey Emergency Hospital.  
Broadlands Annexe.

(b) INFECTIOUS. Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home, they are admitted by arrangement to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital. Cases in the Redbridge, Milbrook and Chilworth Areas are admitted to the Southampton Isolation Hospital.

### **(4) *Air-Raid Casualty Services.***

These are under the control of a Joint Committee formed of representatives from Romsey Borough and Romsey and Stockbridge R.D.C.

Medical Officer i/c Casualty Services : Dr. T. P. Lalonde.

## **SECTION E.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

### ***Water Supplies.***

The water supplies for this area are chiefly obtained from wells, the exceptions being, some of the Parishes in the South are served by the Southampton Corporation Waterworks, there are several private Estate water supplies and the Parish of Frenchmoor has a piped supply owned by the District Council.

No large extensions of water mains have been carried out.

### ***Drainage and Sewerage.***

Generally throughout the area houses rely upon cesspools and septic tanks and householders make their own arrangements for cleansing.

In the Parish of Millbrook some houses are connected to the Southampton Corporation sewer and the remainder which have cesspools are emptied by Contractors.

Some complaints have been received from the Parish of North Baddesley of overflowing cesspools. The subsoil is such that septic tanks cannot be used with success as it appears impossible to get the effluent away, with the result that many houses with small cesspools are filled within a week of emptying, overflowing and creating a nuisance.

#### *Public Cleansing.*

In some parishes scavenging is carried out by Contractors, and in most cases a collection is made once every month. The refuse collected is taken to the Council's Depot at Belbins where it is sorted, some sent for salvage and the remainder buried in the pit.

### **SECTION F.—Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other diseases.**

There is an increase in the number of Scarlet Fever cases. Nearly 40% of the cases were over school age. Nine of the cases were from a residential nursery.

3 cases of Diphtheria, one of school age and two over school age.

An outbreak of measles occurred of mild severity. 16 of these cases although of a mild type were removed to the Isolation Hospital, as they were in a Residential Nursery. There was one death from measles.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough.

Diphtheria Immunisation. 83 per cent of the children under school age and 76 per cent of those of school age have been immunised.

There is an increase in the number of cases of Scabies but the number of cases has not necessitated the opening of a special clinic. Cases have been treated by arrangement at Totton and Southampton.

There was one case of Anthrax—malignant pustule. This was admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

### **NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1942.**

Disease	Total number notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever .....	32	26	0
Diphtheria .....	3	3	0
Pneumonia .....	8	—	0
Cerebro Spinal .....	2	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	4	0	0
Erysipelas .....	6	2	0
Measles .....	154	16	1
Chicken Pox .....	3	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	24	0	0

## CANCER.

Deaths :—Males 16, Females 28. Total 44.

The number of deaths is above the average.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified 15. Pulmonary ..... Males 5 Females 7.

Non Pulmonary Males 1 Females 2.

There is an increase in the number of cases notified. Number of deaths 6. This is about the average.

## TABLE.

Causes of death in Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District, 1942:

Cause of Death	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES .....	131	117
Pulmonary T.B. ....	2	3
Other T.B. ....	—	1
Syphilitic ....	—	1
Influenza ....	1	1
Measles ....	—	1
Cancer ....	16	28
Diabetes ....	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ....	14	7
Heart Disease ....	35	25
Other Circulatory ....	3	1
Bronchitis ....	6	2
Pneumonia ....	5	2
Other Resp. ....	3	1
Diarrhoea ....	1	1
Other Digest. ....	1	1
Nephritis ....	2	3
Other Maternal ....	—	1
Premature Births ....	1	1
Congenital & Birth injuries	2	1
Road accidents ....	3	1
Other violence ....	4	1
All other causes ....		

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. TATE, Medical Officer of Health.

